


February 14, 2005
Questions? director@kpha.us
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KPHA Legislative Update for the Week of February 7


The final January receipts for the state put revenues \$46.3 million above Nov. 3 Consensus Revenue Estimates according to Legislative Research this week. The addition of agency earnings, interest earnings and transfers added \$7.6 million to the tax-only \$38.7 million. There were three bi-weekly paydays in December, and some of that money was paid in January concluding that the \$36 million increase in individual tax payments was partly due to the additional pay periods. With the upcoming months receipts being tapped by income tax refunds, there is still wiggle room, though, in the numbers.

On Thursday the House Appropriations Committee sent to the full House a resolution that would kill the Governor's Executive Reorganization Order 33 if passed. The Order combines most all state health purchases in a single agency to be able to do "group purchasing" for the state. March 12 is the deadline for the ERO to take effect. Thursday afternoon, the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee sent to the full Senate a resolution that would kill the ERO. The Senate isn't expected to take final action on that bill. Since only one chamber's rejection derails the order, it in essence it is not going anywhere.

Bills of interest in the legislature this week included one creating the cancer drug repository through the State Board of Pharmacy would allow a cancer patient's unused drugs to be used by future victims. HB 2086- would extend home health surveys to a period of at least once every 36 months and HB2088 intended to deter a mother who intends to murder her child

This week testimony was heard on HB2256 concerning nurse practitioner prescribing. **Opponents included:** Kansas Medical Society, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas Academy of Physicians Assistants, Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists **Proponents included:** Kansas State Nurses

Association and the Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners

SB 55 was also introduced in the Senate this week and it would amend employment security laws and breath alcohol tests used as conclusive evidence of misconduct. An individual's refusal to submit to a chemical test or breath alcohol test would be conclusive evidence of misconduct if the test was requested pursuant to a written policy of the employer and was a required condition of employment. A positive breath alcohol test would be conclusive evidence to prove misconduct if the foundation evidence establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the results are reliable. A positive chemical test would be conclusive evidence to prove misconduct if the test was requested pursuant to a written policy of the employer and was a required condition of employment. The collecting and testing of a sample shall be performed by a licensed health care professional or any other individual certified or authorized to collect or label test samples including law enforcement personnel. [Back to top](#)

HealthyKansas Coalition: Streamline Government to Increase Efficiency

TOPEKA, Kan. - A coalition of health care providers and non-profits today stated their support for Governor Kathleen Sebelius' proposal to streamline state government's health care operations.

The HealthyKansas Coalition announced its support for the Governor's plan to reorganize the state government to improve the efficiency of its health care operations. Members planned to deliver testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, which is holding hearings on the initiative.

"Health care is a huge concern for our state. It only makes sense to bring together the state's health care initiatives, because anytime we can eliminate duplication and increase cooperation, it will save time and money in the long run," said Jerry Slaughter, executive director of the Kansas Medical Society.

Patrick Hurley, spokesperson for the coalition said that in 2003 alone, twenty-two states considered similar reorganizations with special emphasis on changes affecting the Medicaid program. "Kansas can not afford to delay taking similar action this year. Adoption of the ERO is a necessary first step toward meaningful health care reform," he said.

The coalition is made up of nearly 100 organizations, ranging from AARP, to the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, to the United Methodist Church of Kansas. All share a common interest in improving the health of Kansas families.

The Governor has proposed bringing the state government's health care functions together into a single Office of Health Planning and Finance. This allows better coordination of the state's health care efforts, including Medicaid and the HealthWave insurance program for children.

Tom Bell, president of the Kansas Hospital Association, gave one example of how the Governor's proposal would streamline health care.

"Right now, Medicaid is one layer in SRS. Streamlining these agencies would allow a focus on the Medicaid program specifically. Our hope is that such extra focus would allow the program to function more efficiently," said Bell.

The reorganization plan is included in Executive Reorganization Order 33, which is part of Governor Sebelius and Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger's HealthyKansas Initiative. Other elements of HealthyKansas include the extension of health insurance to 70,000 low-income children and working families; reduction of health administrative

costs through the Health Cost Containment Commission; and creation of a new, market-based health insurance solution for small businesses and their employees.

HealthyKansas Coalition

We the undersigned do hereby join the HealthyKansas Coalition and express our support for the elements of the HealthyKansas proposal announced by Governor Sebelius and Insurance Commissioner Praeger, which includes the following public policy goals:

1. Contain health care costs by streamlining the health care system through the work of the Health Care Cost Containment Commission and consolidating the state's health care purchasing in the Kansas Health Care Authority;
2. Provide small businesses with an affordable health insurance option to enable them to insure their employees by pooling resources through the Business Health Policy Committee;
3. Provide health care coverage and preventive care to uninsured Kansas children by enrolling them in HealthWave, through a process known as presumptive eligibility;
4. Establish and fund a Pilot Project to provide health care coverage to children of state employees who are income-eligible for HealthWave;
5. Provide Health Insurance Coverage for lower income working parents by increasing the HealthWave eligibility limit to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level;
6. Provide access to lower cost prescription drugs, name brand and generic, for seniors and low-wage working Kansans, including access to the 1-SAVE Rx Program;
7. Establish programs to help Kansans get and stay healthy in business, education, and community settings by increasing physical activity, avoiding tobacco use, healthier diets, and preventive care; and
8. Establish a health care assessment on cigarettes and other tobacco products for the purpose of funding these health care initiatives.

HealthyKansas Coalition Members

AARP	Kansas Head Start Association
American Cancer Society	Kansas Health Care Association
American Heart Association	Kansas Health Care Consumer Coalition
American Lung Association of Kansas	Kansas Health Care for All
Barber County Community Health Department	Kansas Home Care Association
Barton County Health Department	Kansas Hospital Association
Butler County Health Department	Kansas Immunization Action Coalition
C.D.I. Head Start	Kansas LIFE Project Foundation
Central Plains Area Agency on Aging	Kansas Medical Society
Clay County Health Department	Kansas Podiatric Medical Association
Coffey County Health Department	Kansas Psychological Association
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas	Kansas Public Health Association
DCCCA, Inc.	Kansas Respiratory Care Society
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance	Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

Dickinson County Health Department
 Domestic Violence Assn. of Central Kansas
 Douglas County AIDS Project
 East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging
 Family Resource Center, Inc.
 First Guard Health Plan
 Flint Hills Community Health Center
 Franklin County Health Department
 Harvey County Health Department
 Hays Head Start
 Heartland Programs
 Inter-Faith Ministries, Kansas Benefit Bank
 Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging
 Junction City-Geary County Health Department
 Jefferson County Health Department
 Kansas Children's Service League
 Kansas Academy of Family Physicians
 Kansas Action for Children
 Kansas Advocates for Better Care
 Kansas AFL-CIO
 Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association
 Kansas Assn. for the Medically Underserved
 Kansas Assn. of Community Action Programs
 Kansas Assn. of Homes & Services for the Aging
 Kansas Assn. of Local Health Departments
 Kansas Asthma Coalition
 Kansas Center for Assisted Living
 KS Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
 KS Chapter, National Assn. of Social Workers
 Kansas Children's Service League
 Kansas Dental Association
 Kansas Dental Hygienists Association
 Kansas Family Partnership
 Kansas Foundation for Medical Care

League of Women Voters of Salina
 Lighthouse Hospice, Inc.
 March of Dimes Greater Kansas Chapter
 Marshall County Health Department
 Midland Hospice Care
 Morton County Health Department
 Nemaha County Home Health & Hospice
 Ness County Health Department
 NKESC Head Start
 North Central/Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging
 Northeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging
 Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging
 Northwest KS Education Service Center, Head Start
 Opportunity Preschool Inc. (Head Start & Early Head Start)
 Oral Health Kansas
 Pawnee County Health Department
 Project EAGLE Community Programs
 Rawlins County Health Department
 Regional Prevention Central of East Central Kansas
 Salina Health Education Foundation
 Salina-Saline County Health Department
 Smart Start of Northwest Kansas
 South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging
 Southeast Kansas-Multi-County Health Department
 Southwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging
 Stanton County Health Department
 State Employees Association of Kansas
 The Mental Health Consortium, Inc.
 Tobacco Free Coalition of Kansas
 Tobacco Free Wichita
 Unified Government Public Health Department
 United Methodist Church of Kansas
 Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging

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Position Open at KUMC



The University of Kansas School of Medicine invites applications for a tenure-track position as an endowed Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management. The Chair will provide leadership, supervision and vision for the Department with a mission to further grow and develop the Department, especially the research and education mission.

The University of Kansas School of Medicine is affiliated with a modern 500+ bed teaching hospital and located in Kansas City, Kansas, a large mid-western metropolitan area (<http://www.visitkc.org>). The surrounding community offers affordable housing, timely commutes, excellent schools, and a lively restaurant and entertainment district.

The Department has a strong teaching, and service mission. Faculty provide training to approximately 80 students in the ACEHSA - accredited Masters in Health Services Administration program. In addition faculty provide education

to a variety of other students and trainees including medical students and residents. The Chair will also supervise the newly instituted PhD program in Health Policy and Management.

Faculty collaborate with colleagues in other departments (Preventive Medicine, Public Administration, Sociology), schools (Business, Law, Nursing) and centers (Aging, Health Care Research, Health Care Informatics), and with professional practitioners, many of whom serve as adjunct faculty.

Research initiatives address many topics, including outcomes management, Medicaid managed care, access to insurance, consumer health behavior, and rural health care financing. It is expected, with support, that the Chair will provide the vision and faculty recruitments for further growth in the research mission. Excellent opportunities exist to develop research initiatives within the Veterans Administration, Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (the Kansas Medicare Quality Assurance organization) and the clinical departments at KU.

Candidates must have an MD or PhD and a record of accomplishment in research, teaching and administration in health services, health policy, or a closely related discipline. A commitment to school, professional, and community service is required.

The Chair will lead the Department's educational and research programs and will represent the Department on the Council of Chairs and other leadership groups within the University and the School of Medicine. The Chair will be expected to strengthen relationships with local and state agencies and to develop new relationships, which further the Department's mission.

An application, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three references should be sent to:

Health Policy and Management Chair Search Committee
Office of the Executive Dean - 3015 Murphy
University of Kansas School of Medicine
3901 Rainbow Boulevard
Kansas City, KS 66160-1537

Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. The University of Kansas is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. [Back to top](#)

2005 Public Health Conference Partnering for a Healthy Iowa



Register Now! Early-bird registration is March 1: \$100 and March 2-18: \$120.

The intended audience for the 2005 Public Health Conference is public health profession-is a great opportunity for public health practicing in various professionals, public and private settings. Practitioners colleagues, and parents to gather public health information, and connect with each other.

Conference Information

Contact: Sara Patkin

Phone: (515) 963-8664

E-mail: mspatkin@yahoo.com

Refunds

All but \$15 of the registration fee is refundable for cancellations received by March 23, 2005. No refunds will be allowed after that date. Registration is transferable to another person. To cancel or transfer your registration, please send written notice to Sara Patkin by e-mail at mspatkin@yahoo.com or mail at 809 NE Michael Drive, Ankeny, Iowa, 50021.

Continuing Education Credit

Up to hours will be available to licensed dietitians through the Iowa Board of Dietetic Examiners Sponsor Number 7. Application has also been made for approval of CPEs from the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Continuing Education Unit applications in nursing, social work, NAPNAP, dental and other disciplines have been submitted for approval. Application has been made to the National Commission for Health Education. Credentialing (NCHEC) for CHES Category I continuing education contact hours (CECH).

Exhibitors, Sponsors, and Advertisers

You are invited to participate in the conference as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser. Information and registration forms can be found at www.ieha.net or www.iowapha.org. A limited amount of space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Poster Sessions

Poster sessions are being planned for Wednesday, March 30, 2005. Posters are intended to depict a public health program, research project, or community activity. Professionals and students are encouraged to present the results of a study or report. If you would like to present a poster or would like more information, contact Marcus Johnson at (515) 242-6284 or mjohnson@idph.state.ia.us. The application to present a poster session is located on the back of the conference registration form. [Back to top](#)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) Releases Suicide Awareness Event Resource Kit



SPRC is pleased to announce the publication of the Suicide Awareness Event Resource Kit. Produced as a collaborative effort between SPRC and the Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA), the kit is a compilation of the best tools that SPAN USA and its members have used in organizing successful awareness events in many state capitols and in Washington, D. C.

The result of a decade-long collective experience of SPAN USA advocates, this kit provides all of the resource materials necessary to organize, plan, and conduct a suicide awareness event. Among the key resources in the kit are a logistics planning guide, sample publicity materials, state and national suicide data sheets, and state legislative contact and session information. The Suicide Awareness Event Resource Kit is available for reading and downloading from the [SPRC website](#). [Back to top](#)

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